



March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I want to provide an update following the Governor's decision late Thursday night, March 12<sup>th</sup> to shut down schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This situation continues to change quickly and we will adjust as we continue to receive new information and direction. I am not a Public Health Official, but it is important to understand that based on the history of how viruses spread, we anticipate community spread to continue at higher levels for a period of time. It is hard to make overarching claims, but from what we have seen so far as to how the virus has spread, there are groups within our population who have experienced a greater impact.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally shown mild symptoms similar to the flu. Children with underlying serious medical conditions and special healthcare needs are at greater risk. Based on the short history of the COVID-19 virus and how it has spread throughout the world, older adults are at the greatest risk for more serious complications. As we are all potential carriers and could spread the virus, especially to those most at-risk, is what the public health agencies are trying to slow and mitigate. I have attached a document on "flattening the curve" which shares how the intent is to slow the spread of the virus to more manageable amounts.

As we work through this unprecedented situation, talking with our children to understand their thoughts and concerns as their normal routines are impacted, will be crucial. Working to maintain as much structure and routine, is also important. My hope is we can work to make the best of our current circumstances. Our first priority is to continue meals to all in need. Please help by communicating this information to anyone who needs it. We will be communicating future information as we receive it.

We have worked with State and Federal agencies to establish meal services at the following sites and times listed below. These sites will be open on:

- Tuesdays and Fridays, March 17<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- As directed by the Michigan Department of Education, up to two meals per day may be served for ALL children 18 years of age and younger.
- We are also able to provide food for students with disabilities ages 18-26 with an active IEP.
- The "grab and go" meals will include multiple days of food.
- We are also working with our community partners as they will also provide additional food for weekend meals, at these same times.
- A parent/guardian may pick up multiple meals for any children in their home 18 and under.
- Students do not have to attend with their parents. We welcome any family in our community.
- We do ask that the Health Department guidance is followed, and people do not cluster together, but maintain social distancing between each other in all public places.

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AND COMMUNICATE TO ALL**

**CAPS MEAL SITES DURING COVID-19 CLOSING**  
**Tuesdays and Fridays – Multiple meals provided each day**  
**March 17, 20, 24, 27, 31,**  
**April 3, 7, 10**

**Coopersville Area District Library (Parking Lot) 10:00 – 10:45 am**  
**333 Ottawa Street, Coopersville**

**Coopersville Timberline Estates (Clubhouse) 11:00 – 11:45 am**  
**260 Pin Oak Drive, Coopersville**

**Tallmadge Meadows (Clubhouse) 12:15 – 1:00 pm**  
**0-11630 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Grand Rapids MI 49534**

**Other Community Resources**

- As this situation has created numerous challenges for many people, I also remind you of the 2-1-1 call center through the Greater Ottawa County United Way.
- Dialing 2-1-1 will connect you to health, human, and community services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Food Truck on 03/18/2020 at 10 AM @**  
Coopersville Cares  
180 68th Avenue  
Coopersville, MI 49404

**Quarterly Food Commodity Distribution on 03/20/2020 10 am – 12 pm**  
**\*\*Requires Pre-Registration\*\*Drive Through @**  
Coopersville Cares  
180 68th Avenue  
Coopersville, MI 49404  
997-8602

**Food Truck on 03/27/2020 at 5 PM (moved off-campus)**  
**Drive Through Mobile Pantry @**  
Coopersville Reformed Church  
423 W Randall Street  
Coopersville, MI 49404

**Coopersville Cares Food and Clothing Pantries will be closed for shopping for the time being, but the pantry will be offering Food Box pickup during the normal open hours. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 12 pm and Tuesdays 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. There will be no one time per month limit during this time. Proof of income is not required.**

My hope is as we follow advice of Public Health Officials and maintain physical distance between each other to help mitigate the spread of the virus; the human spirit will bring people closer together in ways which people may never expect. Throughout history with some of the most unique and greatest challenges, people have persevered because of the strength of the human spirit and we often see the best of people as they look to help others. There may be opportunities to help support with donations or volunteer hours through the United Way, Coopersville Cares, Pack It Up, Hand 2 Hand, or other support agencies.

I hope you will help support and take care of those throughout our community, especially those who are in the greatest at-risk category who might need to stay at home and separate themselves, yet may need assistance, a helping hand, or food brought to them without potential exposure to those of us who might be carriers. We should all operate under the expectation that we have or will be exposed to the virus and can carry and transmit the virus without ever showing symptoms or having mild symptoms. The challenge becomes to help those who are at greatest risk, but yet not expose them to infection. We encourage you to help support our children and each other as we move forward. Please share this information with anyone who might need help and/or support.

Sincerely,



Ron Veldman  
Superintendent

RV/la

**Thank you to the many agencies, health care providers and others who are helping support and manage this situation.**

**A few local community agencies who have been extremely supportive include:**

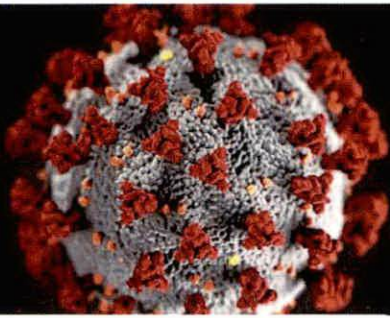
Coopersville Cares

Ottawa Community Schools Network

Greater Ottawa County United Way

Pack It Up

Hand 2 Hand



# FLATTENING THE CURVE:

## Mitigation Strategies to Lessen the Impact of COVID-19



HEALTH  
Department

Rev. 3/12/20

## Moving From Containment to Mitigation

Based on the current spread of COVID-19 and the shift from containment (i.e. preventing the novel coronavirus from entering a community) to mitigation (i.e. lessening the impact of the novel coronavirus), it is important to introduce social distancing measures. These measures will help ensure that everybody comes into close contact with fewer people each day, thus slowing the transmission of COVID-19.

This slowed transmission is essential for saving lives. Implementing social distancing measures before the virus has gained a strong foothold in a community makes them more effective. In public health, we refer to these measures as “flattening the curve.”

Flattening the curve refers to the idea that in an ideal outbreak situation, there would not be more people who are sick than the healthcare system could treat at any one time. If COVID-19 spreads quickly throughout our community and many people are ill at the same time, the healthcare system will not be able to provide all the life sustaining measures required to help all those who are seriously ill (see the blue curve in the graph below). A slower spread of the illness through our community over a longer period of time will reduce the amount of people who are seriously ill at any given time thus putting less strain on our healthcare system that has finite resources (see yellow curve below).

